

Routes to tour in Germany

The German Alpine Route

German roads will get you there — so why not try the Alpine foothills with their impressive view of the Alps in silhouette? The route we recommend is 290 miles long. From it, at altitudes of up to 3,300 ft, you can see well into the mountains.

In Germany's deep south viewpoints everywhere beckon you to stop and look. From Lindau on Lake

Constance you pass through the western Allgäu plateau to the Allgäu uplands and the Berchtesgaden region. Spas and mountain villages off the beaten track are easily reached via side roads. Winter sports resorts such as Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the Zugspitze, Germany's tallest peak, or

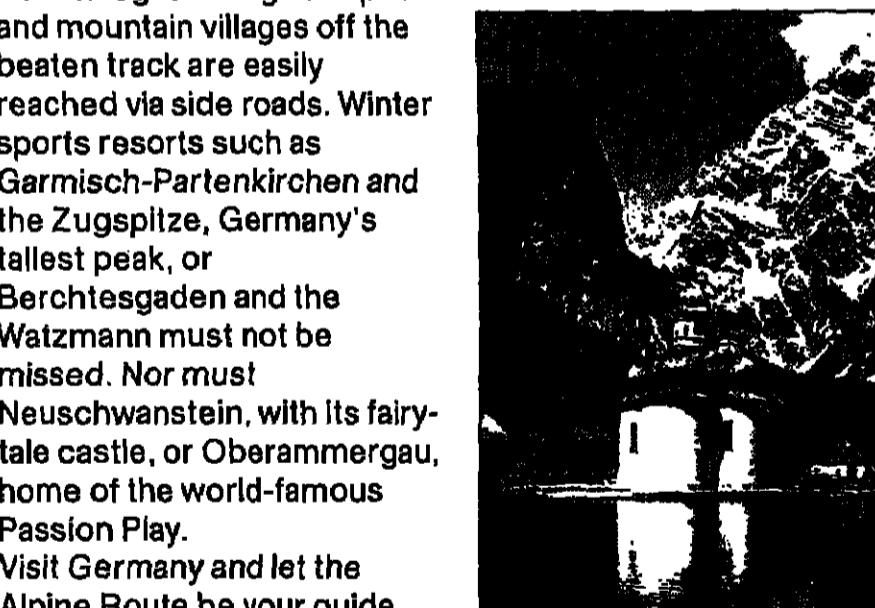
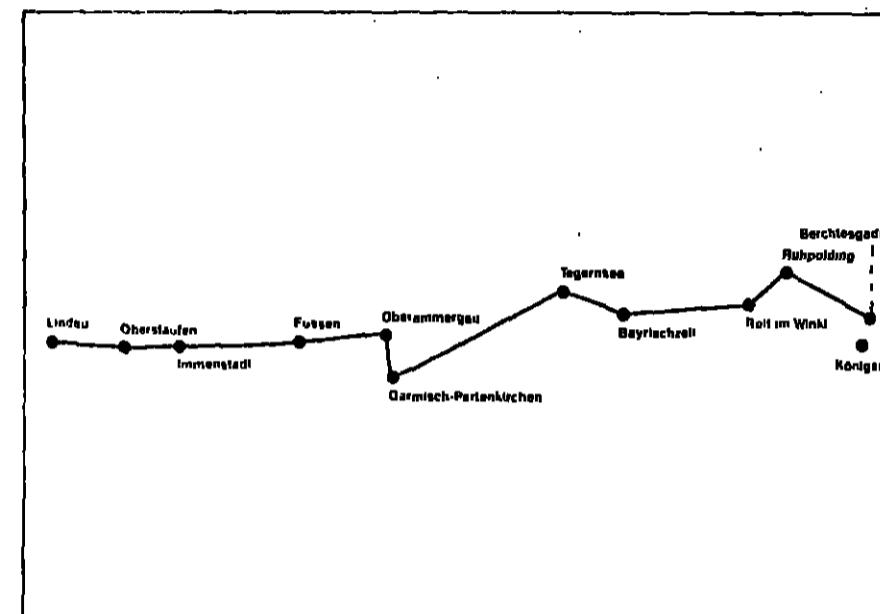
Berchtesgaden and the Watzmann must not be missed. Nor must

Neuschwanstein, with its fairytale castle, or Oberammergau, home of the world-famous Passion Play.

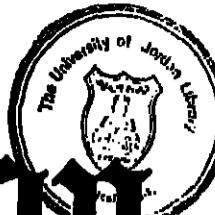
Visit Germany and let the Alpine Route be your guide.

- 1 Oberammergau
- 2 Königssee
- 3 Lindau
- 4 Neuschwanstein Castle

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE
FÜR TOURISMUS EV
Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000 Frankfurt/M.



The German Tribune



Sign,

Hamburg, 11 December 1988
Twenty-seventh year - No. 1350 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858
DEPOSE A BRX X

Euro Summit shows limits to any leap forward

Hannoversche Allgemeine

There was no great leap forward at the Rhodes meeting of the heads of state and government of the 12 European Community member-states.

In route to the single internal market they took time off for a half-way mark reappraisal of the situation.

In the temperate Greek island climate they reviewed progress to date, took a closer look at their 1992 internal market deadline and otherwise contented themselves with non-committal declarations of intent.

After their successful marathon meetings in Brussels and Hanover they can hardly be begrimed having allowed themselves to be guided this time by the *genus-lernd und -have-concentrated-on* the art of non-committal conversation by which the Ancient Greeks set such store.

There would have been far too great a risk of top-level political disputes blocking any and all specific steps forward.

Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, is well aware that this British bastion cannot be taken by storm.

So, like the Turks who besieged the bastion of the Knights of St John where the European summit was held, M. Delors has opted in favour of the tenacious approach of trying to breach the Iron Lady's defences by gradually submitting specific, realistic, individual proposals designed to lend the internal market its social dimension.

Reciprocal recognition of university degrees, deregulation of capital movement and perceptible progress in deregulating public sector contracts and reaching agreement on European standards are undoubtedly a firm foundation for further moves toward integration.

Taken together with the reform of the common agricultural policy, the system of Community finances and structural policy, they are even more promising. The 1992 deadline has lent the Community unforeseen impetus.

Within a few years Eurostasis has been superseded by a Eurodynamism that has made the process of European integration irreversible.

The European internal market is exercising a growing external effect, and not just on the Efta countries, which feel increasingly geared to the European Community.

The Community is seen more and more clearly all over the world as an economic and political force to be reckoned with. The countries of Eastern Europe have sounded out the prospects of cooperation in Brussels.

The Americans and Japanese are gearing up, with mixed feelings, for tougher European competition — by setting up a free trade zone comprising the United States and Canada, for instance.

Their fears and expectations seem wildly exaggerated when viewed from the European vantage point. European

Community leaders reiterated at the Rhodes summit that they have no intention of setting up a "Fortress Europe."

As for the larger European market without frontiers to which everyone refers and which all member-countries are said to favour, it so far resembles nothing so much as a castle in the air.

The highest hurdles en route to the promised internal market have yet to be cleared. They include fiscal harmonisation, monetary cooperation, welfare policy and the abolition of border controls.

The Rhodes summit showed yet again that Britain's Margaret Thatcher is determined to prevent her partners in Europe from venturing too great a leap forward.

At this fairly early stage in the debate the others were right not to embark on a fundamental dispute with Mrs Thatcher on the Community's political objectives, on a European central bank, the "social dimension" or the abolition of border controls.

Even so, the European Community has no reason for resting on its laurels.

So far the Twelve have kept to the schedule and at half-way mark have passed roughly 50 per cent of the legislation needed for the single internal market.

Like the Turks who besieged the bastion of the Knights of St John where the European summit was held, M. Delors has opted in favour of the tenacious approach of trying to breach the Iron Lady's defences by gradually submitting specific, realistic, individual proposals designed to lend the internal market its social dimension.

It would have been unwise to discuss the abolition of border controls at this stage. In two or three years, when the internal market is more cohesive and even more breaches have been made in the British bastion, the discussion will take a course entirely different from the shape it would have taken in Rhodes.

The summit's failure to seriously discuss the proposed harmonisation of indirect taxes was, in contrast, incomprehensible, especially as the Commission's proposals had been presented and were available for debate.

The Finance Ministers of the Twelve have already debated them in detail.

Continued on page 2



Cross Rhodes. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (left) and Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the Summit.

(Photo: AP)

New Soviet guidelines with the same old ideas

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The good news is that Soviet foreign policy is being redefined on a moderate and level-headed basis. The bad news is that militarily the Soviet Union has not gone in for reduction. So Soviet "new thinking" is no different from the old.

With unabated energy the Red Army continues to be pried with heavy weapons for its "Western war theatre" while the Soviet air force is equipped with modern fighter bombers.

The same is true of the medium-range missiles that are being scrapped in accordance with the INF Treaty; they are being replaced by long- and short-range systems.

The latest military balance issued by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, leaves no doubt on all these points, and the Soviet military are not even bothering to make any claims to the contrary.

The Soviet Union's surprise attack or ground-gaining operation capability has not been reduced in the least.

Soviet "new thinking" has not, other than by way of semi-official ideas, brought about any changes in Westpolitik with regard to Berlin and Germany.

This was last unmistakably apparent during Chancellor Kohl's visit to the

Kremlin, and the aim of this emphasis was not just to please Herr Honecker and keep the GDR quiet.

There can no longer, since Mr Gorbachev's after-dinner speech in Moscow, be any question of opportunities having been missed on the German Question.

Since Mr Gorbachev borrowed the metaphor from Mr Brezhnev the "common house" of Europe has been given neither a new and more pleasing ground plan nor more comfortable furniture.

There can only be any substantial change once the Kremlin leaders are agreed on three points:

- that the process of integration in Western Europe is making headway;
- that the US and Canadian military presence in Europe remains indispensable;
- and that nuclear weapons continue to be needed to keep Europe's architecture stable.

1992 will mark not a conclusion to Western European integration but an important stepping stone on the road to a prosperity zone of industrial democracies in Europe.

The superiority of the social market economy and Western technology have already forced the Soviet leaders to realise that 70 years of revolution were in vain.

The peaceful dynamism of a united Western Europe can be sure to intensify its intellectual and material attraction for Eastern Central Europe.

Realists in the Kremlin can no longer aim to stem the tide of this trend or to prevent it. Their common objective must

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

GERMANY

Page 4

East Berlin begins bullying regime critics again

Page 12

MOTORING

Page 9

A look at the new BMW and the new Mercedes

Page 13

FILMS

Page 11

Felix makes first appearance on European scene

Page 14

THE ENVIRONMENT

Page 12

Genetically engineering bacteria to break down industrial toxins

MEDICINE

Page 13

Combating addiction to drugs that are legal

FRONTIERS

Page 14

From bricklayer to fekir in a series of scorching lessons

■ SECURITY

Spending dominates defence agenda

Nato Defence Ministers met in Brussels for a two-day autumn conference dealing mainly with sharing the burden of military spending.

The United States, with its heavy budget and foreign trade deficits, is keener than ever to see Western Europe make a more substantial contribution toward the cost of defending the Continent.

A report submitted to the conference assessed the contribution made by individual countries and outlined sectors in which improvements were felt to be possible.

Eurogroup Defence Ministers agreed in preparatory consultations to play a comprehensive and constructive role in strengthening Nato's defence capability.

But they strongly rejected the US accusation that their contribution toward joint defence was inadequate.

The 12 Defence Ministers of Eurogroup member-countries launched an information campaign in which they underscored their contribution within Nato.

They distributed a brochure entitled "Burden Sharing — The European View" in which figures were quoted to illustrate their claim that Europe and Turkey have shouldered most of the burden of their conventional defence.

The brochure heightened the impression that the North Atlantic pact is heading for a serious transatlantic clash on burden sharing.

It notes that in the European and Turkish sectors of Nato 95 per cent of divisions, 90 per cent of troops and artillery, 80 per cent of tanks and combat aircraft and 65 per cent of larger warships are locally supplied.

If a state of emergency were to arise the United States could mobilise 3.8 million men, whereas Europe could mobilise seven million.

Between 1970 and 1987 Europe is said to have increased its defence spending by 34 per cent on average and in real, i.e. inflation-adjusted terms.

America, in contrast, is said to have increased its defence spending by only 15 per cent over the same period — and to have reduced its troop strength in Europe, whereas Europe had increased its service manpower.

The brochure deals in detail with the extent to which the Federal Republic of Germany is affected by foreign troops and manoeuvres.

Nato is said to hold 85 larger and about 5,000 smaller-scale military exercises a year in Germany, not to mention 580,000 flight movements by military aircraft.

At talks that traditionally begin the

Continued from page 1

The most controversial items have been identified.

No-one who calls to mind the tax reform debate in the Federal Republic of Germany will fail to appreciate how difficult it is to reform tax systems. Each and every change has profound effects on budgets and national economies.

No-one will harbour illusions that the proposed tax harmonisation can be implemented in a matter of months, and time is short. In the final analysis the European Community now has only two years left if it is to reach agreement in time for its 1992 deadline.

Thomas Gack
(Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung, 5 December 1988)

meeting of the Defence Planning Committee, or twice-yearly session of Nato Defence Ministers, the Eurogroup extended the burden sharing issue to include trade between Europe and North America and the common arms market. Economic policymakers were reminded of the "international economic dimension" of the European Community's forthcoming single internal market.

What they meant was that the United States must, partly in view of common security interests, be guaranteed privileged access to the European internal market.

This having been said, the Eurogroup then took the United States to task, noting in its communiqué that the security of Europe continued to depend on North American commitment and on the continued presence of North American troops in Europe to guarantee the alliance strategy of deterrence and defence.

This reminder was felt by European Defence Ministers to be necessary in view of what state secretary Lothar Rühl of the Bonn Defence Ministry referred to as a cæsura or hiatus in the transition in the White House and the larger Democratic majority in Congress meant for America's European allies.

Nato partners were said by Bonn Def-



Nato secretary-general Manfred Wörner (left) and Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Herr Wörner was playing an official visit to Bonn. See Perspective, page 6. (Photo: dpa)

ence Minister Rupert Scholz to have taken a "very positive" and "most appreciative" view of the German defence contribution.

He noted, after the initial session of the autumn conference, that US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci had endorsed the Eurogroup's report.

Herr Scholz referred to the contribution the Federal Republic had made by increasing the length of conscription and continued to make in the form of "immortal" provisions such as allowing 900,000 servicemen to be stationed in Germany.

He said a German proposal to set up a multinational airborne division in northern Germany had been taken up in Brussels.

It was envisaged as including German, British, Belgian and Dutch personnel. A working party had been entrusted with drawing up a concept.

Winfried Münster
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich,
2 December 1988)

New Soviet guidelines

Continued from page 1

pions with a range of less than 500km. That would amount to not only cancellation of Nato's "flexible response" strategy but, implicitly, to calling on the Americans to withdraw from Europe.

Mr Gorbachov would then be alone in possessing nuclear weapons in Europe — apart from the British and French nuclear deterrents, which are *ultima ratio* weapons serve a somewhat different purpose.

The United States will neither consider a return to the "massive retaliation" strategy of the 1950s nor leave its troops stationed in Europe without nuclear support.

Nato secretary-general Manfred Wörner has appealed to Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, to let actions follow his words and show earnest on the reduction in conventional armaments while he proposed.

Thomas Meyer
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger,
Cologne, 26 November 1988)

Theatre nuclear weapons must and will be reduced to a reasonable and adequate level, but the stabilising effect of nuclear weapons in and for Europe must, on the other hand, be retained.

In the cold war era the Soviet Union may have overlooked the fact that America's role in Europe was more than mere containment and a military guarantee; it overruled previous European conflicts and disputes, lent expression to economic interdependence and was a means of maintaining international political stability.

The change that now appears imminent seems likely to intensify this US role. It will no longer be enough for the Soviet Union to grudgingly accept an American presence; it cannot, in any case, prevent.

It must be the precondition and structural architectural element of all planning.

The double zero solution in respect of land-based medium-range nuclear missiles is now to be followed, as the Soviet Union sees it, by the scrapping of all nuclear wea-

New statistics reveal military strengths

Kölnische Stadt-Anzeiger

In almost all defence categories, the Federal Republic of Germany has the largest land-based armed forces in Europe — apart from the Soviet Union — say the latest Nato figures.

The comparative statistics for Nato and the Warsaw Pact countries released in Nato capitals are the first coordinated data comparison Nato has issued since 1984.

As usual, the East Bloc is found to be much superior in weapons for launching an attack or an invasion.

Nato has drawn up the statistics to underline its view that the Warsaw Pact must make much bigger concessions than the West at the proposed conventional disarmament talks to strike a balance in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The Nato report, which is said to be based on the latest Western figures and on estimates where the East is concerned, lists arms and manpower by country for the first time.

In main battle tanks, for instance, the Federal Republic heads the list in the West, with 4,330, followed by Turkey with 3,000, while in the East the Soviet Union, with 37,000 tanks, comes well ahead of Czechoslovakia, 3,800, Poland, 3,400, and East Germany, 3,000.

The Federal Republic leads the West in armoured infantry vehicles too, while its artillery firepower is second only to Turkey's. As for helicopters and combat aircraft, the Federal Republic is outnumbered in Western Europe by the United States.

Nato is worried by the Warsaw Pact's enormous superiority in tanks, artillery and engineering corps strength and by the threat it poses to the West.

The latest figures, which have been submitted to all 35 countries associated with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), is intended to prompt the East to be more "transparent" and release detailed figures on its arms and manpower in time for the forthcoming disarmament talks.

Mr Gorbachov would then be alone in possessing nuclear weapons in Europe — apart from the British and French nuclear deterrents, which are *ultima ratio* weapons serve a somewhat different purpose.

The United States will neither consider a return to the "massive retaliation" strategy of the 1950s nor leave its troops stationed in Europe without nuclear support.

As a result Nato would be finished and Europe might once more be the scene of a conventional war.

Theatre nuclear weapons must and will be reduced to a reasonable and adequate level, but the stabilising effect of nuclear weapons in and for Europe must, on the other hand, be retained.

In the cold war era the Soviet Union may have overlooked the fact that America's role in Europe was more than mere containment and a military guarantee; it overruled previous European conflicts and disputes, lent expression to economic interdependence and was a means of maintaining international political stability.

The change that now appears imminent seems likely to intensify this US role. It will no longer be enough for the Soviet Union to grudgingly accept an American presence; it cannot, in any case, prevent.

It must be the precondition and structural architectural element of all planning.

The double zero solution in respect of land-based medium-range nuclear missiles is now to be followed, as the Soviet Union sees it, by the scrapping of all nuclear wea-

No. 1350 - 11 December 1988

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

3

■ BONN

Chancellor risks party row in choice of minister



Ursula Lehr. (Photo: Poly-Press)

Chancellor Kohl has again gone outside the Bundestag (Parliament) to choose a cabinet minister. Ursula-Maria Lehr, a university professor, takes over the portfolio of Family Affairs in place of Rita Süssmuth, who is now the Speaker. The Chancellor is the only cabinet member appointed by the Bundestag. He can pick ministers from outside the Bundestag.

The CDU leader was accused at the time of dropping his fellow-Christian Democrat like a hot potato. Would he be similarly accused in Herr Jenninger's case?

Herr Jenninger has certainly received bags full of mail from correspondents who feel his speech was honourable and merely inept in its delivery.

Regardless of CDU criticism of the speed at which the Chancellor disposed of the Speaker — en route between Washington and New York — Herr Jenninger's resignation was right and indisputable.

What might the public reaction have been if he had hesitated? All he can fairly be accused of is failure to satisfactorily explain his reasons to a wider public.

His success in the difficult search for a successor to Frau Süssmuth is partly due to the surprise factor. Professor Lehr is a newcomer to the political stage in Bonn, and an academic.

The Chancellor is evidently willing to run the gauntlet of dissatisfaction in the parliamentary party, which has again been ignored in the choice of a Cabinet Minister.

Herr Kohl's inclination to hire people who are not involved in federal politics has become such a habit that it might seem that a Christian Democrat who aims to get into Parliament is putting himself or herself at a disadvantage.

But the Chancellor can't be accused of using the ranks of politicians in the *Lüder* to fill his cabinet ranks. If he did that, his room for choice would soon be narrow.

Herr Kohl is probably least satisfied by the trouble he may have with the parliamentary party. At present it cannot afford even a limited clash with the Chancellor, who is its very backbone.

Besides, the long drawn-out debate on who might succeed Frau Süssmuth showed the parliamentary party to be unable to come up with a suitable candidate. Neither Roswith Verhülsdonk nor Agnes Hürland filled the bill.

The party leadership at both Federal and Land government level is increasingly accused of having completely lost

that is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

The party leadership at both Federal and Land government level is increasingly accused of having completely lost

that is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

That is doubtless why he has been criticised from branches of the party such as the Junge Union, the social committee, and the women's association even though he is probably the wrong target for criticism.

■ GERMANY

East Berlin begins the bullying again

The East Berlin government has begun bullying its critics again. Security police are using none-too-subtle means to silence opposition. The government has even banned a Soviet magazine and some Soviet films. Why? Because the ageing members of East Berlin's government are trying to prevent any discussion about the Stalin era or about any aberration in the history of the Communist Party. In this article, Claus Wettermann, writing in the Cologne daily, the *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger*, takes the occasion of Chancellor Kohl's state-of-the-nation speech to look at what is happening in East Germany.

In recent years, the Chancellor's state of the nation address has presented the relationship between the Federal Republic and East Germany in a favourable light.

This year, he found it difficult. Although his Deutschlandpolitik has been by and large successful, Herr Kohl was unable to ignore what is happening across the border, where the ageing, inflexible party leadership is rejecting glasnost and perestroika.

The atmosphere in East Germany is, as a result, becoming more restrictive and this, in turn, is affecting relations with other countries. It is automatically, although so far indirectly, worsening the conditions that a florid hing relationship between the two Germanies needs.

Apart from the strained atmosphere, East Germany's internal problems would not at first glance appear to have that much influence on the relationship between Bonn and East Berlin.

Talks on specific issues continue as usual, and there has even been an advance in one field.

In return for the generous contribution by Bonn for the extension of the transit connection between Berlin and the West, East Berlin is no longer making the cleaning up of the River Elbe dependent on agreement to draw up the border in the middle of the river.

Agreement was reached to start environmental protection negotiations.

Censorship of religious texts and prayers are reminiscent of the dark days of the ill-fated struggle between the Church and the state.

East Berlin has even banned a Soviet publication called *Sputnik*, which is favourable towards glasnost – a particularly restrictive aspect of the trench warfare being conducted against liberal tendencies. Several Soviet films have also been banned.

Honecker's regime hopes that what it is doing will nip in the bud any attempt to discuss the crimes of the Stalin era and the aberrations of the Communist past.

At the same time Honecker has all too demonstratively allied himself with Romania's despotic leader, Nicolae Ceausescu.

Honecker couldn't have done more to disassociate himself from Moscow and those reformers who have started to take up Gorbachov's ideas in most of the other Eastern European neighbouring Eastern European countries.

Honecker and his followers apparently feel so strong – or perhaps it is uncertain? – that they are determined to prevent any spreading of glasnost and perestroika in East Germany by taking on Moscow head on.

Together with the nationalities conflict and the struggle against ideological opponents in the Soviet Union itself, this challenge from a brother nation comes at an

inopportune moment for Mikhail Gorbachov.

Is the East German Communist Party perhaps hoping that Gorbachov's opponents will eventually gain the upper hand?

By strictly rejecting reforms with such inflexibility the old men in East Berlin are only fanning the flames of critical opposition in their own country.

Already faced by food supply problems the East German population is becoming increasingly disappointed, embittered about the policies pursued by their leaders. In some cases the result is resignation and apathy.

This discontentment is not only reflected in the generally silent protest action, but also in the growing desire to legally or illegally leave the country for good.

Some of the younger members of the Communist Party are also unhappy about the current disavowal of Moscow's reform policies, although there is no sign of an organised rebellion.

There are rumours and speculation about a replacement of Honecker, who is 76, in the near future.

His power base does not appear to be so stable as it was a year ago and his public appearances show that age is taking its toll.

For the time being, therefore, Bonn will have to continue trying to come to some arrangement with Honecker and his old guard.

The end of the Honecker era, which could begin at a Communist Party conference in 1990, is unlikely to usher in a new era of reform.

There is no one in sight among the candidates seriously considered for the succession who might be more favourable towards Gorbachov-style reforms.

Apart from the strained atmosphere, East Germany's internal problems would not at first glance appear to have that much influence on the relationship between Bonn and East Berlin.

Talks on specific issues continue as usual, and there has even been an advance in one field.

In return for the generous contribution by Bonn for the extension of the transit connection between Berlin and the West, East Berlin is no longer making the cleaning up of the River Elbe dependent on agreement to draw up the border in the middle of the river.

Agreement was reached to start environmental protection negotiations.

Censorship of religious texts and prayers are reminiscent of the dark days of the ill-fated struggle between the Church and the state.

East Berlin has even banned a Soviet publication called *Sputnik*, which is favourable towards glasnost – a particularly restrictive aspect of the trench warfare being conducted against liberal tendencies. Several Soviet films have also been banned.

Honecker's regime hopes that what it is doing will nip in the bud any attempt to discuss the crimes of the Stalin era and the aberrations of the Communist past.

At the same time Honecker has all too demonstratively allied himself with Romania's despotic leader, Nicolae Ceausescu.

Honecker couldn't have done more to disassociate himself from Moscow and those reformers who have started to take up Gorbachov's ideas in most of the other Eastern European neighbouring Eastern European countries.

Honecker and his followers apparently feel so strong – or perhaps it is uncertain? – that they are determined to prevent any spreading of glasnost and perestroika in East Germany by taking on Moscow head on.

Together with the nationalities conflict and the struggle against ideological opponents in the Soviet Union itself, this challenge from a brother nation comes at an

New generation 'rejecting communist propaganda'

East Germans are becoming less and less afraid of facing the facts and openly admitting the contradiction between ideological claims and the harsh realities of life under communist regime, says the Mayor of West Berlin, Eberhard Diepgen. In a speech in the Bundestag in Bonn, Diepgen said that decades of socialist education had been unable to guarantee loyalty to the regime. Now a younger generation was emerging which was not "educated" in

way in which the East Berlin leadership is trying to prevent any liberalisation along Soviet lines.

In his "Report on the State of the GDR" Diepgen outlined the contradictions. On the one hand, an increase in coercive measures by the state security police; on the other, liberalisation in the legal policy field.

On the one hand, official permission to perform critical plays in East German theatres; on the other, petty-minded censorship.

On the one hand, a critical appraisal of great personalities such as Luther and Bismarck; on the other, a refusal to discuss controversial questions of contemporary history such as the Hitler-Stalin pact.

On the one hand, a toleration of the reception of western television and, on the other, a ban on certain Soviet films.

Although it is often claimed that the situation in East Germany cannot be compared with the situation in the Soviet Union, the sight of long queues outside of the shops is no longer a rarity.

Diepgen only touched on the possible reasons for the growing isolation of the East German regime.

At a much later stage than in the West, he said, the East is experiencing an alteration of generations.

The decades of socialist education have been unable to guarantee loyalty to the regime. On the contrary, the propaganda has provoked criticism.

According to Diepgen the younger generation in East Germany is "in the good sense – an un-educated generation."

East Germans are becoming less and less afraid of facing facts and openly admitting the contradiction between ideological claims and harsh realities of socialism in its present form.

Their reaction fluctuates between opposition and resignation, and Diepgen is convinced that this is one of the major reasons for the rising growing exodus to the West.

Many East Germans who are not granted an exit permit seek inner exile and demonstrate civil disobedience.

In Diepgen's words, East Germany is on the verge of losing some of its best "thinkers" as a result of "inward and outward emigration".

None of the Deutschlandpolitik experts gathered in the Bundestag contradicted this analysis.

Hager made Gorbachov look like a painter-decorator. Honecker made him look like a toad.

Honecker is afraid of "marching into anarchy." For Stalinists, the inability to continue totalitarian rule is nothing other than anarchy.

It was an interesting German Thursday in the Bundestag.

Chaus Wettermann (Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 29 November 1988)

Bernd Brügel (Lübecker Nachrichten, 2 December 1988)

■ PERSPECTIVE

US entitled to ask Germans to pay more towards Euro defence, says Wörner

The Americans are entitled to ask why a wealthy Germany should not pay more towards the cost of defence in Europe, says Manfred Wörner, secretary-general of Nato and a former Bonn Defence Minister. He told the business weekly, *Wirtschaftswoche*:

"Gorbachov, that an independent system of defence must be paid for to keep peace and support policies of disarmament control. But he warned that military potential continued to grow in the Soviet Union: 'Gorbachov has not yet scrapped a single tank or withdrawn a single soldier. He should do what the Chinese did. They cut their army by a million in 10 years.' On the question of Soviet intentions, Wörner said: 'Intentions can change from one day to the next. Leaders can be replaced.'

A: In the alliance there are, of course, varying views.

Incidentally, I find that the dramatisation of such a decision does not do justice to the actual situation.

The heads of state and government leaders have clearly stated that we cannot do without nuclear weapons in the future and that weapons have to be renewed once they have become obsolete.

The Warsaw Pact does this without asking us for our opinion.

Q: Even during Chancellor Kohl's visit to Moscow attempts were made to stall the modernisation discussion. But you were able to prevent this.

A: I am responsible for making sure that the alliance carefully considers the decisions needed and takes them in time.

Together with the ministers of the alliance I ensured that the decision-making process continued both with respect to an overall concept and to the question of a possible modernisation.

Q: Now a number of other European governments are also faced by difficulties regarding the modernisation of nuclear weapons.

A: This is another attempt to involve me in a controversial national policy issue. I cannot comment on it.

Q: And the European dimension?

A: The secretary-general is not responsible for the success or failure of a project but for security. Which aircraft Europeans buy is not a matter for him.

Q: Since the death of Franz Josef Strauss, one of the most active advocates of the European Fighter Aircraft, there are growing signs that this project may in the end fail. How do you rate the consequences of such a decision for European defence?

A: This is another attempt to involve me in a controversial national policy issue. I cannot comment on it.

Q: And the European dimension?

A: The secretary-general is not responsible for the success or failure of a project but for security. Which aircraft Europeans buy is not a matter for him.

Q: Not only the example of the European Fighter Aircraft shows that sophisticated technology makes weapons systems increasingly expensive. How can this trend be reversed?

A: Only by greater cooperation, which must begin in the alliance-wide development. This is the only method. It is a difficult and bumpy road and we have only made a little headway so far.

When we talk about threat we do not mean intentions but military potential. And it continues to grow in the Soviet Union.

Gorbachov has not scrapped a single tank yet or withdrawn a single soldier.

He should follow the example of the Chinese, who reduced the size of their army by a million in 10 years.

Q: The German population is more interested in Soviet intentions ...

A: Intentions can change from one day to the next. Leaders can be replaced – that's something we cannot influence.

We would be doing nobody, including Gorbachov, a favour by unilaterally reducing our defence efforts.

Q: Bonn's defence budget is at its lowest level since 1982. Where is the money for the burden-sharing envisaged by Washington going to come from?

A: I expect from all political leaders in

the alliance member states, including the Federal Republic of Germany, not to ask what people just happen to be thinking at the moment, but that they exercise political leadership.

They must explain to the population that we must sustain an independent system of defence if we want to preserve peace and support policies of change and disarmament control.

Isn't that a contradiction in terms?

A: It only seems to be. When arms control negotiations have been successful the armament burdens can be reduced. If need be, however, unpopular decisions must be taken.

Q: What does the Nato secretary-general think about the idea of a Europeanisation of security policy, as advanced, for example, by the CDU member of the Bundestag Karl Lamers?

A: I am firmly convinced that a strengthening of Europe is in the interest of the alliance as a whole. A stronger Europe is better for the alliance than a weaker Europe. Just as a stronger America is better. European political cooperation, however, must be compatible with the general interest of the alliance.

Q: What does that mean?

A: It must be conducive and not detrimental to American engagement in Europe. Notions of an independent European defence are unrealistic and even dangerous. We should not create a club within a club.

In the final analysis, however, all European members of Nato support this European Nato cornerstone.

Q: But France has regularly declared that it would not make use of nuclear weapons to save, say, Bonn ...

A: I shall not comment on the opinion of the French president. France defines its own nuclear policy in line with its own sovereign ideas. France is an extremely loyal member of the political alliance.

As far as Gorbachov and the common European house is concerned, all I can say is: there can be no common European house without the involvement of the Americans.

And I'm only willing to talk about a common European house once the Berlin wall has been pulled down.

What are your comments on a claim made by an influential general in the Bundeswehr after Helmut Kohl's return from Moscow that the Bundeswehr's stereotypical image of the enemy is now starting to crumble?

A: The Bundeswehr has never needed such an image. Nato was interested in relaxing East-West relations and helped bring about this change. Without Nato there would be no glasnost or perestroika.

Nato doesn't need false concepts of threat. For people in Germany the main threat is the danger of war, and at the moment this does not exist. Gorbachov has got other worries.

When we talk about threat we do not mean intentions but military potential. And it continues to grow in the Soviet Union.

Gorbachov has not scrapped a single tank yet or withdrawn a single soldier.

He should follow the example of the Chinese, who reduced the size of their army by a million in 10 years.

Q: The German population is more interested in Soviet intentions ...

A: Intentions can change from one day to the next. Leaders can be replaced – that's something we cannot influence.

We would be doing nobody, including Gorbachov, a favour by unilaterally reducing our defence efforts.

Q: Bonn's defence budget is at its lowest level since 1982. Where is the money for the burden-sharing envisaged by Washington going to come from?

A: I expect from all political leaders in

Politics at first hand

Detailed and objective information is what you need if you are to hold your own on politics and world affairs: facts on which to base your own political viewpoint.

Aussenpolitik, the quarterly foreign affairs review, gives you facts at first hand for an annual DM50 plus p&p.

Write today for a sample copy of the English edition, at no obligation, to the publishers, INTERPRESS GmbH, Hartwicusstr. 3-4, D-2000 Hamburg 76, Federal Republic of Germany. Tel. (040) 229 06 06.

— Coupon for a sample copy —

Name:	
Address:	
Country:	
Profession:	
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive further information on politics and world affairs.	

■ FINANCE

Germany shoots to top of corporation tax league in spite of reductions

Tax reductions are about to catapult German business into the position of being the highest-taxed in the industrialised world.

The reason for this apparent contradiction is that Austria, which used to head the tax league, is to slash its corporation tax at the same time — by enough to push it down the list.

The Bonn reforms bring corporation tax down from 56 per cent to 50 per cent. Total tax on profits, including trade tax and property tax, will drop from 70 to 66 per cent.

By comparison, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's socialist government in Vienna is reducing corporation tax from 55 to 30 per cent. The entire system is also being simplified and the tax-free allowance doubled.

Until now, Austria has been the only country with a higher corporation taxes than Germany.

The Austrian reform means that companies will only pay about half as much as they used to. The rate is still high by international standards, but no longer crippling.

IBTM chief Hans-Olaf Henkel said that business profits were burdened in three ways: working time, wages and taxes. Henkel has been vocal in the debate on the advantages and disadvantages of the Federal Republic as a centre for industrial and commercial operations.

The Institute for German Industry, Cologne, closely connected with German industry generally, has now produced a new international taxation comparison, which presents the Federal Republic in anything but an advantageous light.

Businessmen in Britain, Spain and the Netherlands are taxed the lowest at 35 per cent.

In all three countries, incidentally, companies do not have to pay tax when they have made no profits — such as the trading capital tax payable in the Federal Republic.

According to the Cologne institute Switzerland is also a country where very low corporation taxes are levied. West German businessmen pay twice as much tax as their Swiss colleagues.

Compared with the taxes paid by the Federal Republic's competitors, German taxes are on average 21 per cent higher.

The Cologne institute has established that not only in Austria have companies been given greater tax relief than in the Federal Republic. The institute's investigations showed that:

- In the Netherlands the rate of corporation tax was reduced from 42 to 35 per cent on 1 October this year.
- The rate has been reduced by a number of stages in Britain, the last time in 1986 from 50 to 35 per cent. Small businesses with profits less than £100,000 only have to pay 25 per cent tax.
- In the United States corporation tax was reduced from 46 per cent to 34 per cent last year, but at the same time a whole series of tax benefits were abolished.

After exerting considerable pressure the United States got a delay for a year for its exporters.

The delayed battle has now flared up fiercely, and the Europeans seem to have bad cards in their hand, no matter how distasteful this may sound to Ger-

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

profits in taxes, but from 1 April next year the rate is to be reduced to 40 per cent, and a year later to 37.5 per cent.

Michel Rocard's socialist government in Paris has promised reductions in corporation tax from 42 to 39 per cent.

In their comparison the Cologne institute's experts assume that companies are operated as joint stock companies, that is as a GmbH or an AG, and that profits are not distributed, but remain wholly in the company — undoubtedly an unrealistic supposition in most cases.

But even if the tax burden on distributed profits is included in assessments not much is changed.

In the Federal Republic profits distributed to shareholders are taxed in personal income tax with a top rate of 56 per cent. Corporation tax already paid can be taken into account.

Since trade tax and other taxes have not been changed, the total tax burden totals 70.8 per cent, just as when profits are retained.

This tax picture also applies to partnerships, including limited partnerships, general partnerships or sole proprietorships.

The situation is somewhat different in other countries. According to the Cologne institute, the tax burden in Britain and the USA increases if a part of the profits are distributed. In both countries an allowance on corporation tax is not possible at all or only partially.

If a third of the profits are distributed taxes up to 39.3 per cent have to be paid; in the United States up to 51.9 per cent.

In all three countries, incidentally, companies do not have to pay tax when they have made no profits — such as the trading capital tax payable in the Federal Republic.

Brussels has decided that as from 1 January meat treated by hormones can no longer be imported.

This will mainly hit beef from the United States. It trade value: 260 million marks a year.

The tax experts in the Cologne institute came to the conclusion that all in all

The authors of the Cologne institute's study wrote: "The graph of the tax burden for the Federal Republic and other countries narrows when profits are distributed, but nevertheless compared internationally the Federal Republic remains at the top of the list of tax payers."

International comparisons of tax burdens are distorted by another difficulty: the definition of what are profits is in no way standardised.

Federal Republic companies, for instance, can pour considerable sums of money into pension funds, and so limit reported profits.

In addition German companies come off well as regards depreciation allowances. Machinery, which has been in operation for ten years, can be depreciated against profits after one year by 30 per cent.

Only Ireland has more favourable depreciation conditions. Denmark and Austria have conditions similar to those in the Federal Republic.

In France, Italy and Britain a 25 per cent depreciation can be applied after a year, in the Netherlands and Belgium only 20 per cent, in Spain just eight per cent.

The same is true for depreciation on buildings. In the Federal Republic companies can write off investment in buildings within 25 years; the tax authorities in the Benelux allow a write-off only after 33 years, in Portugal after 50 and in Japan only after 65 years.

There are "cheaper" countries. Sweden, Austria, France and Italy allow a write-off after only 20 years and in Ireland a building can be written off almost immediately, that is within two years.

Most countries do not apply taxes such as trading capital tax or property tax.

depreciation allowances in the Federal Republic were "more favourable" than in other countries.

The Federal Republic does not come off so well as regards possibilities of charging losses to previous or future profits, that is forming a profit and loss account in the balance sheet.

Reported profits, the figure on which corporation tax is assessed, are reduced by special provisions such as depreciation and the option of including pension fund provisions.

Generous provisions in the calculation of the basis for tax assessment compensate for high taxes.

There is a lot to indicate that the 70 per cent calculation puts the Federal Republic, when compared internationally as regards tax liabilities, in a much more unfavourable position than is actually the case.

But they agreed to set the production limit at 18.5 million barrels.

The Opec compromise in Vienna is an unrealistic one. All 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries knew that the maximum market for Opec oil was 16 million barrels a day.

The oil market was and remains a market of illusion and speculation. Klöckner & Co has made that obvious well. The search for oil also stimulates gas exploration and exploitation.

All energy experts are agreed that natural gas will eventually supplement oil.

Safeguarding future energy requirements is then directly linked to higher oil prices.

The market does not care a hoot about such considerations, however,

otherwise it would not have let the oil price drop to such an undreamt-of low level below ten dollars.

A glance at the USA shows just how ill-prepared even the experts were for such a sharp drop in prices. In America oil companies have calculated their long-term investment in buildings, production plant and equipment for the 1980s based on an oil price of up to \$80 per barrel.

The results are well known. There is no stopping nuclear energy and the use of natural gas in the Federal Republic alone has reached the level of domestic coal.

If the price rose to \$20 a barrel then moth-balled because the oil industry is not investing in exploration, would be back in operation.

If the price rises, then all oil-producing countries become more interested in increasing production. One only has to think of the financial position of the

■ ENERGY

Oil market remains one of 'speculation and illusion'

Die Welt

The Opec compromise in Vienna is an unrealistic one. All 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries knew that the maximum market for Opec oil was 16 million barrels a day.

There is a lot to indicate that the 70 per cent calculation puts the Federal Republic, when compared internationally as regards tax liabilities, in a much more unfavourable position than is actually the case.

But they agreed to set the production limit at 18.5 million barrels.

The oil market was and remains a market of illusion and speculation. Klöckner & Co has made that obvious well. The search for oil also stimulates gas exploration and exploitation.

All energy experts are agreed that natural gas will eventually supplement oil.

Safeguarding future energy requirements is then directly linked to higher oil prices.

The market does not care a hoot about such considerations, however,

otherwise it would not have let the oil price drop to such an undreamt-of low level below ten dollars.

A glance at the USA shows just how ill-prepared even the experts were for such a sharp drop in prices. In America oil companies have calculated their long-term investment in buildings, production plant and equipment for the 1980s based on an oil price of up to \$80 per barrel.

The results are well known. There is no stopping nuclear energy and the use of natural gas in the Federal Republic alone has reached the level of domestic coal.

If it is assumed that Opec members stick by the compromise, which is not absolutely certain, since all compromises would be swept away by the flood of oil in a time of surplus, the question of more stable oil prices then still remains to be answered.

If the price rises, then all oil-producing countries become more interested in increasing production. One only has to think of the financial position of the

A cold wind is blowing across the coal face. The sharp fall in energy prices and the drop in the dollar exchange rate have made anthracite expensive.

There is now a wobble in the scaffolding of agreement which governs the use of anthracite in the electricity industry.

This agreement is called the "Jahrhundertvertrag." It runs from 1980 until 1995, during which time electricity-generating companies are committed to buying 512 million tons of German domestic coal. This protects the domestic industry from imports.

No-one denies that a secure and inexpensive energy supply is an indispensable basis for the viability of a modern economy.

The two oil crises have taught us that energy policies can only be geared to ensuring the long-term needs of the economy, even if many would like to disregard this.

In times of energy surpluses the competitive argument is dominated by the word "cheap" and the word "secure" is pushed into the background.

The point at issue is the financial arrangement known as the "Kohlepfennig," a charge added to electricity bills sent out to German consumers to cover the financial arrangements under the "Jahrhundertvertrag." This offsets the cost difference between expensive domestic coal and heavy heating oil.

Trouble with this arrangement means trouble with the volume of coal.

In 1987 power stations used more than 41 million tons of domestic anthracite. That was more than a half of the production from German mines, and more than two-thirds of the coal produced in Saar coal mines.

If this agreement is overtaken, it would mean the end of the domestic coal-mining industry, which employs 150,000.

Safeguarding the supply of energy also involves coal mining, which is falling victim to low prices on world energy markets.

And only in this way can coal gain its proper position as a secure energy source.

And only in this way can coal gain recognition as a vital energy source within the Community, which then will have the responsibility of being concerned about safeguarding it.

Only within the framework of this fi-

nancial agreement is the use of coal possible.

Anyone in the coal-producing federal states who is up in arms against the use of nuclear energy in federal states distant from the coal mines, should not expect to regain the former uniform priority given to coal in the Federal Republic's energy policies.

The use of nuclear energy is being reconsidered. Longer-term concepts will have to be sought if social hardships are to be avoided. Scrapping nuclear energy overnight is not the answer.

Here we see again the spirit of the times determined by short-winded coal policies which can provide neither the coal mining companies with perspective nor coal-miners with confidence, a policy saddled with the current financial strain on the Jahrhundertvertrag. But this is political reality.

It is of vital importance to find once more a consensus of opinion for Federal Republic energy policies.

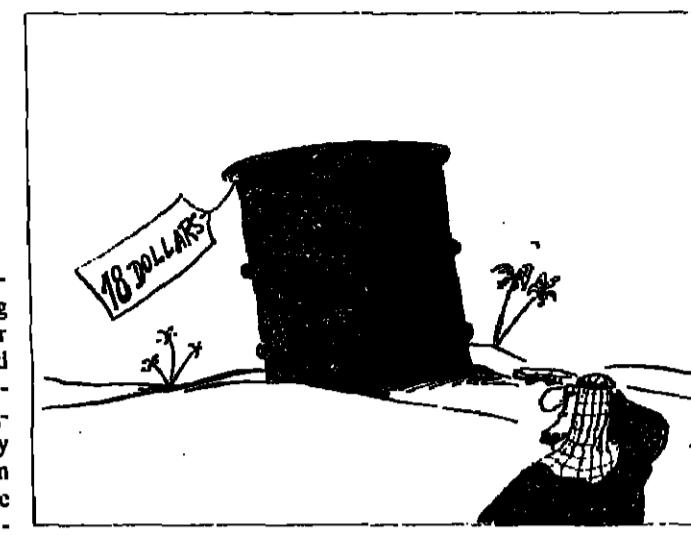
This can only be achieved if soundings are made in discussions about which role prime energy sources will take up in the long or short-term, and not by marking out unshakable positions.

And only in this way can coal gain its proper position as a secure energy source.

And only in this way can coal gain recognition as a vital energy source within the Community, which then will have the responsibility of being concerned about safeguarding it.

The Commission has already made efforts to produce a list of these obstacles.

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 25 November 1988)



Current choice: all switch off together

The government in Bonn recognises the need to open up the German electricity supply market after 1992.

But it has no intention of unilaterally getting rid of German protective barriers if the other European countries are not prepared to discuss getting rid of theirs as well.

Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann made this clear to other European Community national ministers at a meeting in Brussels.

He had in mind the state electricity monopoly in France, the network monopoly in Denmark and differing tax and environmental protection measures.

He told journalists that adjustment process for coal could not be arranged overnight.

With this stance, showing fundamentally a readiness for compromise, Bangemann was trying to accommodate French pressures.

The French do not miss an opportunity of saying that the subsidy mechanism in the "Jahrhundertvertrag," an agreement with the power industry, is contrary to the European treaties.

At French insistence the European Commission is examining the admissibility of the "Kohlepfennig" and the sales regulations associated with it.

Since EC officials have not contradicted the German regulations, Bangemann has assumed that Bonn will not have to face up to a total cancellation of these regulations.

Additional provisions to the current "Jahrhundertvertrag," which runs until 1995, must be negotiated at the latest by 1991.

There is however a conflict of aims between the efforts for more competition within the EC and similar efforts by the Community to ensure for consumers secure supplies of fuel.

Bangemann said that the Federal Republic needed a transitional period. The steelworks contract regulations for 1991 are the most that one could demand of the hard coal industry.

And calls to halt reducing capacities for the conversion of coal into electricity are not being considered. In a resolution on the single market for energy the controversial theme was omitted.

The aim was to express at first fundamental readiness for the dismantling of existing obstacles for access to the market.

The Commission has already made efforts to produce a list of these obstacles.

(Die Welt, Bonn, 9 November 1988)

■ TRANSPORT

Road-toll, road-tax juggling act to give German hauliers an even break

Bonn Transport Minister Jürgen Warneke has finally decided to introduce a road toll for heavy goods vehicles. It will apply from 1990 with a view to improving the competitive position of German road hauliers.

They will have to pay the same amount as foreign truckers, but German road tax will be reduced accordingly, leaving them paying the same sum as beforehand.

So the aim is to make foreign road hauliers pay for using German roads, given that most neighbouring countries charge German truckers for using theirs.

The single internal market planned for the end of 1992 will deregulate national restrictions within the European Community. It is intended to shed light on the jungle of tariffs, concessions and cabotage regulations.

It hangs over the heads of German hauliers like the sword of Damocles. They are particularly worried about Dutch competition, which already makes life difficult for them in Europe.

Hauliers and politicians are agreed in calling for harmonisation of taxes and duties on vehicles and fuel, of insurance premiums for goods and trucks and of welfare provisions for drivers.

Harmonisation on all these points is a 'must' before deregulation can be considered, they argue.

Otherwise the Dutch could well emerge triumphant from the post-1992 free-for-all, showing German hauliers a

Französischer Allgemeine

clean pair of rear tyres. The road toll is planned as a harmonisation measure. Herr Warneke intends to use it to exert pressure on the European Commission to force the pace of harmonisation.

The toll is initially to apply until the end of 1993 pending an all-European solution. The Standing Conference of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHT) calls it "blackmail."

True, the introduction of a road toll is the very opposite of deregulation. It amounts to a third tax on motorists, coming on top of road tax and oil duty.

It also discriminates against hauliers, as against private motorists, who aren't charged road tolls in the Federal Republic.

Politicians may rule out the idea, but the government might well, after biding its time for a while, decide to extend the arrangement to private motorists.

They would arguably be using the roads free of charge (and would certainly seem a lucrative source of extra revenue).

Herr Warneke would prefer the toll to be regarded as a regulatory measure with no fiscal objectives. As road tax on heavy goods vehicles is to be reduced according-

ly, tax revenue will, he says, be unchanged.

That isn't entirely true. Even if revenue from German hauliers remains unchanged, the toll revenue paid by foreign truckers will net several hundred million marks a year.

In view of traffic congestion and environmental damage due to vehicle emissions the Transport Ministry was not prepared to re-jig taxes to promote road haulage.

There have been frequent calls for a reduction in road tax on heavy goods vehicles to an average European level, road toll or not, but Finance Minister Stoltenberg refused to consider a move that would reduce tax revenue substantially.

Yet the Transport Ministry was reluctant to go the whole hog and charge everyone — German motorists and foreigners — to improve the competitive position of the railways and to help ease the burden of environmental pollution.

The result has been neither one thing nor the other. Traffic will not be reduced. Neighbouring countries are annoyed and, in Holland's case, have threatened to take the case to the European Court of Justice.

The harmonisation of taxes envisaged by the European Commission will be made more difficult by the introduction of yet another tax. (Whether that is a blessing in disguise is another matter.)

Lufthansa joined forces with Air France, setting up a joint subsidiary in which it holds a 49-per-cent stake. Embarrassingly, the new airline's inaugural flight was called over the loudspeaker at Tegel airport, Berlin, as a Lufthansa flight.

As Eastern Europe is keen to get a look-in at the Airbus, the Western Allies were not expecting the Soviet protest against the Franco-German new-comer to have "unduly" dramatic consequences.

No-one is expecting the Russians to quit the Allied air safety centre in Schöneberg, the last remaining post-war Four-Power authority that is still functioning.

Tension between the Western Allies seemed more likely to create difficulties. The erstwhile partners who shared Berlin air traffic between them are now tooth-and-nail rivals.

The Transport Minister feels it is not in keeping with the market economy for foreign trucks to pay nothing toward the upkeep of German roads, but there is no way of telling how much of their share German motorists pay toward the upkeep of roads all over Europe.

That is why the Free Democrats prefer not to raise the issue. If German hauliers charge competitive prices they will be awarded contracts and use Dutch roads too. If they don't, they will simply not be competitive.

Deregulation of transport markets need not mean absolutely equal conditions for all. What it must do is breathe life into the system of regulated competition in Germany, where it was supposed (but has failed) to shore up the railways.

In the past six years road haulage has increased by well over 60 per cent in the Federal Republic, whereas the railways have increased the tonnage they handle by only about one per cent.

That shows how ineffective regulation is. It certainly does road hauliers no good.

The political liberalisation of transport markets in Europe is to be welcomed, and it need not amount to harmonisation at the highest cost level and on the basis of strictest monopoly conditions.

Carl Graf Holenthal
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
für Deutschland, 8 November 1988)

Lufthansa gets a wing over Berlin

EuroBerlin France, a subsidiary of Lufthansa and Air France, inaugurated its first regular flights to and from Berlin on 7 November. It was not given the go-ahead by the three Western Allied air attaches until the previous evening, said Air France's press spokesman Wolfgang Häg in Frankfurt. But the inaugural flight from Berlin to Frankfurt was airborne on schedule at 9.35 a.m., with a crew of British cockpit and French cabin staff.

Interests are closely interlocked in the air space over the divided city. The United States, determined to gain a foothold in European civil aviation, insisted several months ago on a substantial increase in TWA flights along the Berlin air corridors.

Germany's own Lufthansa has long been keen to corner a share of Berlin traffic, which was handled solely by Allied airlines in keeping with the city's Four-Power status.

Lufthansa joined forces with Air France, setting up a joint subsidiary in which it holds a 49-per-cent stake. Embarrassingly, the new airline's inaugural flight was called over the loudspeaker at Tegel airport, Berlin, as a Lufthansa flight.

Does that make the Z 1 a car of the future, with the "Z" standing for Zukunft (future)?

Initially the "Z" was just a company code used by the Munich carmaker's design and development division, BMW Technik GmbH. But it certainly stands for a step forward, and a step in the right direction, or so we feel.

The Z 1, manufactured in a short run, naturally involves more work by hand than a longer run. But everything under its injection-moulded skin is computer-matched and, for the most part, tried and tested in long runs.

The engine, five-speed gearbox and wide-track front wheel suspension are borrowed from the BMW 325i and 525i.

The rear axle, with its dual lateral and cast aluminium longitudinal guide rods, was specially developed for the Z 1, which has a rear wheel track 5.5cm wider than that of BMW's 3 range.

The brakes are those of the 325i too, but with reinforced rear discs.

The accurate hydraulic rack-steering is geared to the rev count and extremely comfortable.

■ MOTORING

BMW's chameleon — with a little sleight of hand

General-Anzeiger

The BMW Z 1 roadster's bodywork consists of 13 plastic sections and a few smaller parts. So you can change its colour like your daughter can change her favourite doll's clothes.

If you're not happy with a gorgeous red you can change to a superb dark green or switch to a metallic finish in beautiful black.

It involves a little sleight of hand with a screwdriver and ordering a second set of car body parts. But it can be done, and roadster fans will feel the effort is well worth while.

Viewed from a different angle, this surprising convertible is easy to look after. Thirteen plastic sections cover a galvanised sheet steel chassis with an adhesive-sealed sandwich plastic base manufactured by the Munich aerospace group Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm.

No panel-beating is needed after a collision. Plastic bodywork sections are simply replaced, costing the owner and his insurance less than would otherwise inevitably be the case.

Even women wearing short skirts won't find getting into the Z 1 a serious problem. They can sit on the threshold and swing their legs into the cockpit.

Pull the door handle and the recessed door will rise into position, followed automatically by the window. The windows can be raised or lowered electrically en route.

Another technical feature is a lightweight metal tube, non-bending and non-twisting, running between the manual gearbox and the rear-axle differential and housing the cardan shaft.

As the engine and gearbox are behind the front axle and the sporting seats (plus driver and co-driver) and battery are in front of the rear axle, the Z 1 is predictable and easy to handle even when cornering at high speed.

Its unladen axle load is 49 per cent in front and 51 per cent at the rear.

It can be driven "topless" virtually without a draught, which is a decided advantage. This is the result of extensive aerodynamic trials.

Even if the side windows and doors are recessed, the driver and co-driver will not feel much of a breeze, whereas they may feel somewhat cramped with the top on.

But it can be opened and stowed away in the boot in less than a minute. It took a little longer to raise again, but that may have been because we weren't used to the design.

Even women wearing short skirts won't find getting into the Z 1 a serious problem. They can sit on the threshold and swing their legs into the cockpit.

Pull the door handle and the recessed door will rise into position, followed automatically by the window. The windows can be raised or lowered electrically en route.



High claims by the maker... the Mercedes SL.

(Photo: Daimler-Benz)

The doors have a central lock system. The wide-angled windscreen fits into a sturdy over-roll bar, while a lateral bar behind the dashboard reinforces the chassis.

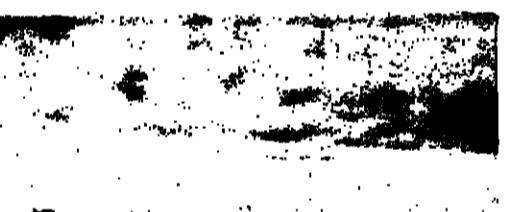
All told, the BMW Z 1 is a superb car for people who enjoy "topless" motoring, appreciate comfort in a sports model and can afford the luxury (DM83,000 is a fair amount of money).

The way it handles when cornering and taking hairpin bends on steep gradients is really something.

Over 3,500 potential buyers have shown interest and BMW will be unable to run more than ten Z 1s a day off the assembly line in what used to be their pilot project unit. So there is a lengthy waiting list, which is less satisfactory.

Hans Joachim Sachse

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 5 November 1988)



Sneak preview of the new Mercedes SL

Hamburger Abendblatt

Daimler-Benz have just released a photograph of the new-look Mercedes SL, a roadster officially not due to be unveiled until the Geneva motor show next spring.

It will incorporate new engines and a range of high tech. Daimler-Benz press spokesman Bernd Hurling: "It incorporates everything that is currently feasible in automotive technology."

The new SL will include an electronic shock absorber system as a standard feature. It automatically adjusts to road conditions. Seat belts form an integral part of the seats.

The new two-by-two sports model will be available in a 300 SL version with the three-litre six-cylinder engine and in a 300 SL-24 version with a 225-hp four-cylinder engine.

The top model will be the 500 SL, with a new eight-cylinder engine, but there are plans to launch a 600 SL with a 400-hp, 12-cylinder, 48-valve engine in 1992.

Versions in the 300 to 500 SL range will cost between DM80,000 and DM120,000 in Germany. They should be available in time for next year's summer holidays.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 17 November 1988)

(Photo: BMW)

220,000 suppliers of 75,000 products 'made in Germany'

Who manufactures what?

Find suppliers and products, send for quotations, compare prices, track down special sources of supply, cut costs by buying at lower prices.

This is a reference work every buying department should have at the ready.

Easy to use, just like an encyclopaedia.

Products, including 9,000 trade marks, are arranged alphabetically, complete with

manufacturer's or supplier's address.

A telephone number is listed for each supplier.

1,400 pages A4, indexed in English and French.

Price: DM98,44, post free in Germany, DM107 cl abroad.

Air mail extra.

Order direct from us or from your regular bookseller.

DAV-Verlagshaus

Postfach 11 04 52

D-6100 Darmstadt

Federal Republic of Germany

Tel.: (0 61 61) 3 91-0



■ THE ARTS

Attaining Esoteric Knowledge through the True Word

Shingon Zen

From an aesthetic point of view it is difficult to comprehend foreign culture and art and grasp the significance of art works and ritual objects.

This is exemplified magnificently by the "Shingon — The Art of Esoteric Buddhism in Japan" exhibition in the East-Asian Museum in Cologne.

The strangeness of cult art works increases the more one tries to familiarise oneself with their contents and importance.

Buddhism came to Japan from India via China and Korea. First contacts were made in 525 AD, before the development of the Shingon School.

The Shingon sect (True Word) was founded by Kobo Daishi (774-835). Fundamentally it is a mystical, esoteric form of Buddhism. It teaches that the Buddha is at the heart of the universe and is latent in some way in all living beings.

Man is made aware of this through special rituals — chanting mystical syllables, ritual finger-entwining, magical spells, yoga concentration and the manipulation of symbolic utensils.

In Shingon art a development began between the 9th and 14th centuries whose significance to the uninitiated remains a mystery.

This exclusive quality of Buddhism in Japan is revealed in an accompanying photographic exhibition entitled "Rituals on the Holy Mount Koya-san." The Shingon sect established its headquarters deep in the mountains on Mount Koya near Kyoto and it became a repository of a great collection of art.

The main exhibition is made up of 90 cult figures, scrolls and ritual objects.

Visitors are deterred from coming to hasty conclusions, for the photographs, which Toshifumi Ike has selected, are based on his own experiences in meditation. If he had not for a long time lived in a monastery himself he would never have been given permission to display them.

The holy number in Esoteric Buddhism in Japan is five. Five, for instance, appears in the reliquary, whose form, from below upwards, symbolises Earth, Water, Fire, Wind or Air and the Ether or Space.

There are also five Buddhas of Esoteric Knowledge; the central figure of Dainichi-Nyoirai, enthroned, larger than the four accompanying figures, in the center of a system of coordinates, corresponding to the four points of the compass and their centre, which is of a particular importance.

Dainichi is enthroned and seated on a lotus flower. The lotus is a sign of purity. The figure five again appears in the cult objects, the hells, in the instrument the priest uses to pass across the eyes, to open them for believers.

The arrangement of the five Buddhas of Esoteric Knowledge is symbolically in union with nature.

The shapes of the mandalas — mandalas are symbols of a cosmic order, symbols of the way of knowledge and redemption — stand for the world, for

the cosmos and equally for the spiritual development of men.

The Buddha at the centre of the mandala is a cult figure and embodies the principle of Buddhist Teaching.

This can be seen in the altars built for the exhibition as well as in the meditation scrolls.

In the Shingon sect instead of god-like figures, instead of Buddhas and the Bodhisattvas, who accompany him, support him, who help men to the Buddhist Teaching of unity with the cosmos, with the world and oneself, there are discs which represent embryonic syllables, indications of the gods in abbreviated form.

The Western visitor, to whom these teachings are foreign, should realise that the evil faces of the divinities are meant not for believers but for their enemies, who seek to deter the believer from his way.

It is obvious that a disciplined, religious esoteric teaching system produces a special form of art.

One can only get a rough idea of the meaning and significance of this if one tries to comprehend, modestly and as rationally as possible, the extreme complications of "Shingon."

Even the proportions have a deep significance and are in no way only stylistic features, even if they have to a considerable extent had influence in art beyond Japan.

The harmony of the proportions and representation, so perfect to Western eyes, comes from a foreign, very distant world, to which the outsider is denied access.

The King of Knowledge, Fudo, is seen as the central figure, who can be terrifying. He carries a sword and a lasso in his hands. The sword is a symbol of knowledge, the lasso, the "cord" for binding evil influences.

The Kings are helpers for the Buddha of Esoteric Knowledge. The force and the spiritual discipline, which are

18th century (Chinoiserie in Europe was not just the result of trade with Asia). The eye in the hand, a typically surrealistic motive, is to be found again in this exhibition: admittedly not with only one or two hands with eyes, but in the form of the Bodhisattva Senjo-Kannon from a group of three with the King of Knowledge Fudo and the Watchman of the World Bishamon. Senjo-Kannon, "the Thousand-armed," has here 42 hands and in each hand a small eye. The visitor should not spring to hasty conclusions here — they are "the Thousand Eyes of Compassion" of a divinity, who will assist man to redemption.

There are five Buddhas of Esoteric Knowledge and five Kings of Esoteric Knowledge, whose anger is directed against everyone and everything, which stands in the way of man on his path to Enlightenment.

The influence this teaching has had on culture and life in Asia and Japan should not be underestimated.

The rigorous hierarchy of Shingon teaching extends far behind religion and art.

The excellent catalogue costs DM 38, and there is a very helpful short guide for DM 5.

Doris Schmidt

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich,

18 November 1988)

One of the five Buddhas of Esoteric Knowledge. Painted wood, 91.2 cm high, Japan 12th C AD. (Photo: Catalogue)

hidden in the Shingon teaching, cannot be perceived as being in form and artistic quality of the very first rank by the uninitiated and nothing can be inferred of its aesthetics.

One does not attain Esoteric Knowledge without teaching, without practice and initiation.

The influence this teaching has had on culture and life in Asia and Japan should not be underestimated.

The rigorous hierarchy of Shingon teaching extends far behind religion and art.

The excellent catalogue costs DM 38, and there is a very helpful short guide for DM 5.

Doris Schmidt

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich,

18 November 1988)

ness for many institutions in China. The head of the Goethe Institute, Herr Kahn-Ackermann, wants to improve the standard of German teaching in the coming year, working together with the Sino-German Society.

There are at present about 3,000 Chinese scientists and students studying in the Federal Republic, and 220 German scientists and students in China.

The expectations Chinese have of the Institute can only be disappointed by the China-centred attitudes of Chinese officials. There is considerable good will on the German side to fulfill these expectations.

Herr Kahn-Ackermann, 42, has worked and taught in China for a long time. He has translated Chinese writers such as Zhang Fei into German.

In his speech he compared the opening of the Goethe Institute with his Chinese wife giving birth to their child a few days before. His speech increased Chinese goodwill towards him, and it was well applauded when he ended.

There are Goethe Institutes in Romania, Yugoslavia and Hungary, and negotiations are underway for establishing them in Poland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

The aim of the Institute in Peking is "promoting the German language in China."

The Chinese have requested that only the language as such should be taught, not "culture" if possible, for culture could be political.

Just how the language can be separated from culture is a secret for Chinese sophists.

The actual number is far more than this, however, for foreign language teaching has become a profitable busi-

ness for many

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Genetically engineering bacteria to break down industrial toxins

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Hans-Joachim Knackmuss and his colleagues at Stuttgart University department of microbiology like going to places other people would not go near with a bargepole.

They like industrial wasteland with its polluted soil; garbage tips, especially tips full of toxic waste; and water purification plant at chemical works.

Their microscopic prey are bacteria that go by names such as pseudomonas and alcaligenes. They must be among the most frequent living creatures in the world. They live in soil or water.

Their natural task consists of decomposing natural substances. They biodegrade higher flora or fauna and bring full-circle the natural cycle on which all living beings rely by reducing them to hydrocarbons, water, nitrogen, sulphur and other substances.

If these micro-organisms did not exist the world's reserves of carbon dioxide, for instance, would be exhausted in 10 years.

For many years man has made use of these little helpers to decompose both natural and manmade substances in water purification plant.

Hans-Joachim Knackmuss has an even more ambitious target. He aims to breed micro-organisms tailor-made to break up toxic substances in which natural bacteria have yet to show the least interest.

Dioxins are one such group of toxic substances he hopes to handle with the aid of custom-built bacteria. The 52-year-old Stuttgart scientist has adopted a dual approach to developing his microbiological detoxifiers.

He first uses nature's own powers of imagination, as it were, then designs micro-organisms on the drawing-board in his laboratory.

He made headline news in *Science*, the US journal, last year with bacteria he and a Swiss scientist had designed to degrade two substances simultaneously.

Bacteria had previously been able to decompose both substances separately, but when they occurred together "the micro-organisms called it a day," Knackmuss says.

The story was even more dramatic. The two substances occurred together in the purification plant of a chemicals factory and poisoned the sludge bacteria, killing off the entire biological purification stage.

It took over four years of basic research to find out why the bacteria were unable to deal with the two substances in combination yet could handle them separately.

"The two substances are very similar," he explains, "and the bacteria set about degrading them in what, respectively, was the wrong way. The by-products were fatal for the bacteria."

He, his team and his fellow-scientist in Geneva succeeded with what he calls a "heave-ho" and "a fair amount of good luck" in isolating five genes from three different strains of bacteria.

These genes, which incorporate the blueprint for the substances the bacteria use to digest their diet, were transferred to a *Pseudomonas* soil bacterium.

This feat of genetic engineering resulted in a strain of bacteria capable of degrading both toxins simultaneously.

Yet the custom-built Stuttgart bacteria are not yet in use in sewage purification.

For one, Herr Knackmuss says, the laboratory-bred bacteria are not yet ready for practical use. They must first learn how to pass on their genetic know-how on how to degrade the twin toxins to their fellow-bacteria at the purification plant. Only then would the information be available to the entire colony of bacteria.

Even though he is well aware, as a microbiologist, of the risks that may be run he makes a most pertinent point.

"If we were to succeed in developing a bacterium that decomposes dioxins I should have to ask the lawmakers whether they preferred to live with dioxins or were prepared to permit the use of the micro-organism."

For him the answer is straightforward: he sees no need to hesitate. He and his colleagues are looking into other ways of at least partly degrading lethal dioxins.

They have noticed that micro-organisms can "nibble" at substances that would otherwise appear not to be

a special diet to make them increase and multiply.

If scientists are unable to identify suitable bacteria *in situ* they resort to microbes that have grown accustomed to the unusual surroundings in other accidents and are capable of digesting the harmful substances.

Together with a specially devised nutrient cocktail the mighty microbes are then let loose on the toxins.

Regardless of the profits they are earning the two IBL bosses and their staff of 33 still have both feet firmly on the ground.

"At present," they say, "we can handle only 10 accidents a year, as against several thousand that are estimated to occur annually in the Federal Republic of Germany alone."

"Besides, we have yet to tackle an abundance of other toxins that may one day, after lengthy R&D work, prove equally amenable to biodegradation."

As orders for their chlorohydrocarbon-eating bacteria roll in, the IBL scientists are worried people might feel their pseudomonads were sneaking genetic engineering into ground and drinking water treatment.

"That is absolutely untrue," Dr Massholder says, almost wringing his hands in emphasis. "If it were, we could blow our brains out here and now."

Yet even if he and his colleagues use natural bacteria, and not a biotech laboratory product, to digest the toxin the problem remains.

How dangerous is it to use uniform micro-organisms on a large scale?

In other words, if the bacteria that are naturally present include strains capable of degrading the toxin they are fed



Has anyone seen alcaligenes? ...
Hans-Joachim Knackmuss. (Photo: Röhm)

biodegradable. Bacteria in this line of business are jointly bred in the laboratory. "Over night a strain may emerge that combines several partial activities," Herr Knackmuss says.

This is because micro-organisms can exchange genetic information even from species to species as long as they live in a single cell culture.

This natural combination facility is much more promising than genetic engineering, he says. In between 70 and 80 per cent of cases it is faster.

Ought not "natural" combinations to be vetted by the commission too? Hans-Joachim Knackmuss replies, with a shrug:

"If they want to prohibit that they will have to ban the natural evolution of life."

Rolf Andreas Zell

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 17 November 1988)

Dr Freund of Sandhausen and the laboratory bomb party

DEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE SONNTAGSBLATT

Nine years ago an explosion shook Sandhausen, a Rhine valley village near Heidelberg. A laboratory run by an ageing chemist, Dr Freund, was destroyed and his one employee was killed.

Four years later (Dr Freund has since died of natural causes) some alarming consequences have come to light.

Chlorohydrocarbons had contaminated the soil and poisoned the ground water. Sandhausen, which now owned the property, drilled emergency wells, installed filters and tried out other techniques to improve the water — but not to much effect.

Unexpected help now seems to be on its way from another laboratory in the "technology park" adjoining the new Heidelberg University campus.

International Biotechnology Laboratories GmbH set up in business here, in bright new quarters, only three years ago. Its young staff work in microbiology, biosynthesis and genetic engineering.

Small and ambitious firms of this kind are dismissed by some as bio-boutiques, but IBL research scientists have identified *Pseudomonas* bacteria (they aren't saying exactly which strain) that can make chlorohydrocarbons harmless.

The bacteria digest the carbon and degrade the toxic compound into less harmful components.

For months the IBL bacteria have been eating their way through the soil on the Sandhausen site, which is still highly contaminated. They have already

reduced the chlorohydrocarbon count from 2,500 to 500 micrograms per kilogram.

In three to four years of bacterial digestion, the IBL research scientists say, at a cautious estimate, the site should be largely decontaminated.

IBL's business manager, Dr Karl Massholder, says the idea first occurred to his company one evening over a glass of wine with a local businessman.

"We failed to see why the chlorohydrocarbon problem should defy solution, and as nature has not yet had an opportunity of dealing with these new toxics, we gave it a helping hand, as it were."

Neither he nor his partner, research director Dr Peter Souv, are prepared to reveal just how they have achieved the seemingly impossible. They are deliberately vague in describing how their de-contamination technique works.

"If suitable micro-organisms are available where the damage has occurred that are capable of eliminating the toxin if the ground water is suited to their nutritional needs, nutrient is infiltrated in the direction of flow of the ground water toward the contaminated area."

How dangerous is it to use uniform micro-organisms on a large scale?

In other words, if the bacteria that are naturally present include strains capable of degrading the toxin they are fed

■ MEDICINE

Prevention is better than cure: combating addiction to drugs that are legal

Society is finding it difficult to cope with the problem of illegal drugs; it is not having any more success with legal drugs such as alcohol and prescribed drugs and medicines.

Per capita consumption is steadily increasing. More and more people are becoming addicted to the bottle or to pills.

As a result, there is a growing readiness to help legal addicts. This was shown by the amount of interest in a congress on Alcohol and Drugs at Work at the International Congress Centre in West Berlin.

Over 1,500 doctors, lawyers, psychologists, nurses, social workers, educationists and union and management representatives attended the congress.

The statistics are a veritable indictment.

As quoted by Ulf Fink, Berlin's Senator of Health and Welfare, they cry

out for action by the authorities.

It was held by the DHS, an organisation concerned with addiction of all kinds. Its members include welfare associations and specialised addiction agencies.

It is held by the DHS, an organisation concerned with addiction of all kinds. Its members include welfare associations and specialised addiction agencies.

At least DM1.5bn a year is currently budgeted by German hospitals for treating alcoholics.

In 1986 nearly 80 per cent of 25,000 courses of hospital treatment costing DM500m were for alcoholics and a further seven per cent for multiple addicts.

Absenteeism due to alcohol costs at least DM3bn a year.

Fritz-Jürgen Kador of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations soberly said that alcoholics were worth only 75 per cent of their wages or salaries

in terms of output. In comparison with other members of staff alcoholics were absent 16 times more often, sick twice and half times more often, involved in accidents at work three and a half times more often and off work as a result for one and a half times longer.

On the other hand DM32bn a year was spent on beer, wine and spirits, DM26bn on cigarettes and tobacco and DM16bn on medicine, Herr Fink told the congress.

Ernst Knischewski of the Protestant Church welfare service, the *Diakonisches Werk*, said he failed to understand why the state, which grossed over DM20bn a year in taxes and duties on alcohol, tobacco and medicine, spent a mere DM2bn on treating addiction.

Society — and the working world — could certainly afford to hire the staff needed to help people suffering from alcohol and drug addiction, said Karl-Heinz Janzen, assistant general secretary of IG Metall, the engineering workers' union.

He felt virtually all firms ought to hire a full-time member of staff to look after addicts. For companies with a payroll of over 500 the extra salary could be recouped from addiction-related costs cut as a result of the work put in by a qualified member of staff.

Smaller firms could share the services of a specialist in this sector.

Herr Janzen felt a "reorientation in combating addictive complaints" was indispensable in view of the spiralling cost of the health service.

The addict must be enabled to stay in his accustomed surroundings. If they were an environment that encouraged addiction, they must be better included in the course of treatment.

The aim and effect must surely be to prevent higher costs from weighing yet more heavily on health insurance and pension schemes.

A "welfare triad" might well prove the answer: advice at work, outpatient treatment and the facilities offered by self-help groups.

Difficulties in treating addiction at work are, however, evidently not just a matter of marks and pennies. Society has double standards where alcohol is concerned, the conference was told.

Being a good drinker and able to hold your drink is a social virtue. To fail in the sense of growing addicted to alcohol or failing ill can easily lead to an addict being ostracised both at work and in private life.

Union representatives at the congress were searching in their repeated reports of boozing in the boardroom and of alcoholics among the management.

They were hardly in a position to rule out the man on the shopfloor slaking his thirst with a beer or two.

"They drink like fish in the executive suite," staff representatives agreed, "yet are only too ready to put the boot in to the small fry who drink one over the eight."

And even where both sides are clearly aware of the problem, theory and practice can still be poles apart.

IG Metall's Rita Russland, who works on addiction and addiction problems for the union, had a tale to tell about centres where the trade unions hold residential courses.

The role of alcohol was limited at these centres, strict arrangements having been

agreed. Yet even works councillors keen enough on their union work to attend courses had been known to be hopping mad on being told that schnapps was not sold in the canteen.

Herr Janzen recalled that the trade unions had tried to negotiate a total ban on alcohol at work in about 1904. But they failed because the workers would hear nothing of the idea.

They argued that as long as conditions at work were beneath human dignity they must be allowed to make them more bearable by taking drink.

This argument may no longer hold water, yet alcohol and patent medicines are still taken to ease the burden of both overwork and boring routine, as Herr Fink put it.

Medical specialists wondered whether the growing resort to narcotics and medicine as an escape valve might not be attributable to people being less prepared to tolerate the ups and downs and aches and pains of everyday life.

Psychologists and welfare workers argued that the use of alcohol, a legalised drug, had been part and parcel of German society for centuries.

If there had been any change, it was merely that standards by which the use of alcohol was judged had steadily declined and been abandoned in recent decades.

Addicts at work in either the public or the private sector stand to derive little benefit from such deliberations, so the congress considered a change in strategy.

It did so because both management and workmates showed scant sense of solidarity with alcohol and drug addicts.

In terms of welfare legislation they may be deemed sick, but in practice they are seldom treated as sick, and there is little likelihood of a change of mind or heart on this subject in the foreseeable future.

Deterring strategy has long been ineffective. Little or nothing is to be gained by telling people what dreadful consequences alcohol abuse can have at work, at home and on their health.

The alternative is to promote prevention programmes and schemes to encourage addicts and potential addicts to lead more positive lives.

More and more companies running addiction assistance programmes have switched to stressing as part of a general encouragement of health consciousness, to impressing on staff that personal happiness, job fulfilment and joie de vivre can be achieved without cigarettes, alcohol and medicinal drugs.

Managements will need to do much more, said DHS business manager Herbert Ziegler, to make work more fun where routine and complaints of one kind and another prevail at work.

Yet the new preventive approach is more promising than its predecessors, all of which started treating the problem too late.

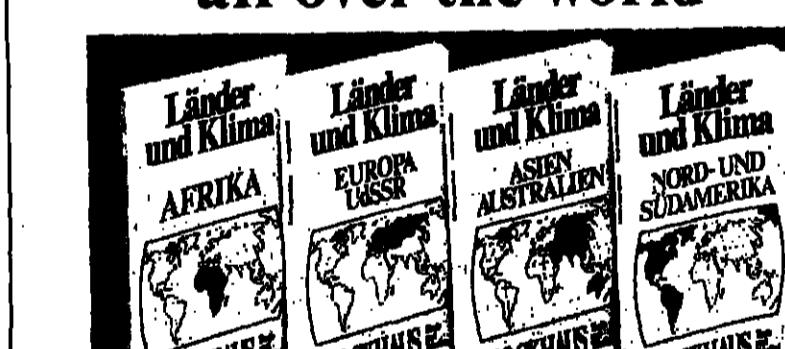
No-one can judge how anyone will respond in the long term to social drinking. Will they be occasional drinkers or become habitual drinkers? There is no way of telling.

On average, a congress press conference was told, it was 10 to 15 years before dependence was recognised to be an addiction and the addict was prepared to accept help.

That is far too long, especially as family life has suffered. In the meantime, work performance has declined and the addict's social standing has suffered irreparable damage.

It is better to try any approach to combat the problem before it is too late;

Dieter Dietrich
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 November 1988)



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference books. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

These figures compiled over the years are invaluable both for planning journeys to distant countries and for scientific research.

■ FRONTIERS

From bricklayer to fakir in a series of scorching lessons

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

His cycle has only one wheel and no handlebars. But he sits on it as if it couldn't be more comfortable. With his right hand, he pushes another one-wheeled cycle ahead of him. With the other hand he holds a seven-step aluminium ladder in the air.

A khaki rucksack sagging with Boecia bowls (used in street bowls) hangs from his back and bumps along the ground. A worn-out board projects from the top of the sack. So does the grip end of an Indian club and a Chinese fire torch; around the sack are a few hula hoops.

Rolf Bendig is on his way to work — in wide, black breeches that flutter as he goes. His head is completely bald apart from a little piece of hair at the back of his head. A silver half-moon dangles from one ear-lobe; from the other shines a pink stud.

Bendig, who comes from Cologne, has chosen a career that puts no value on dress regulations, that has no boss and only a few fellow practitioners: he is a fakir. (Fakir: itinerant Hindu ascetic or wonder-worker).

His professional name is Fakir Alyn; and he describes himself as an "entertainment artist specialising in fire" who "uses sharp items and blunts them with comedy."

At company parties and street festivals, he walks over broken glass with bare feet without drawing the slightest drop of blood.

For three years he performed with a blazing torch and a bed of nails he assembled himself. He went to the big cities of Europe and, in the pedestrianised shopping zones, operated his own one-man street theatre.

He has burnt holes in his tongue and occasionally the ring of fire has scorched his trousers and testicles.

"But that was no reason to give up," he says. "If you are determined to leap across a stream with both feet, you will do it."

But will-power alone is also not enough to give protection against burns. He gives most of the credit to breathing and relaxation techniques which "can remove much of the pain threshold."

For his first fire attempt, he simply wrapped some gauze round a torch, dipped it in a flammable solution, lit it, held his arm over the flame and dis-covered: "Bloody hot."

He still regularly burns the hair on his arms, but otherwise the heat doesn't

bother him. The only real danger is if a gust of wind comes from an unexpected direction. He uses yoga exercises to loosen his whole body so that it notices neither flames nor nails. He describes the combination of yoga and meditation as a form of self-hypnosis. Before every performance, he stands on his head, yoga style, to eliminate stage fright and amuse his audience. Another trick to prevent pain and to win energy is to stay away from drugs of any sort. Not even coffee. At home, only herbal tea and malt ersatz coffee from barley malt are served.

In the kitchen there is a grain mill. Next to it is flour made from soya bean — he doesn't eat any animal protein. And fire-tasting Alyn hasn't smoked for 25 years.

He says: "It is all right beforehand to know that you're going to go over the glass, but it's no good thinking as you go: 'I'm walking over broken glass and I'm not allowed to injure myself.' Otherwise, you won't manage it." A fakir must be hard with himself, even if he burns his nates.

He knows from experience. The first time he put, full of trepidation, the fiery torch in his mouth, he burnt himself and for a week was able to eat only cold food.

He trained several hours a day, which means even going shopping and taking his dog out while riding his one-wheeled cycle. He keeps himself fit with hard physical exercise.

He says he knows he is at the age where people are prone to heart attacks, so he pushes himself to the limit. But otherwise, he feels his age is no handicap. Rolf Bendig, alias Fakir Alyn, is still restless: "I'm still looking." It could well be that he will find something totally different to do.

The street performances were profitable, but they were only a stepping stone (or should that be stepping glass?) to other things. The stage.

His first stage appearance was four years ago as a fire swallower in Smetana's *The Bartered Bride* in Cologne's opera house. He still appears at city festivals, theatre festivals and at private gatherings.

The British, who in their conquering ways, came across them more often than other Europeans, popularised the fakir in Europe, although it became the artistic style which was looked at with wonder rather than the religious.

The work "fakir" means "poor person" in Arabic. Once upon a time, ascetics wandered as religious mendicants through the Islamic countries, using their tough skin to demonstrate self discipline in the interests of both God and Man.

The British, who in their conquering ways, came across them more often than other Europeans, popularised the fakir in Europe, although it became the artistic style which was looked at with wonder rather than the religious.

Bendig, 40, had not the slightest intention of doing anything in this line until one day he went to Cologne's Volksgarten and saw a fakir playing with fire. He recalls now how, at the time, he was trying to find his niche somewhere.

He had already tried his hand at many things. He might have become one of any number of things, a singer, perhaps, or a dancer. He was then a bricklayer. 30 years old, 85 kilos (13 stone 5 pounds) and still had hair on his head. He had just decided to completely change his lifestyle.

The prize awards were welcomed



Fakir Alyn . . . it doesn't pay to think about it.

(Photo: Klein)

and manages "to make a good living." His programme has broadened enormously over the past few years because, he says, long term the fakir repertoire is too limited to remain interesting. So he does things that the ascetics would never dream of doing such as juggling with Indian clubs and doing his act on the one-wheeled cycle.

He says the more traditional of the acts are not as popular as they once were. Sometimes he asks his audience if he should do the bed-of-nails trick and it says "no." Alyn thinks that they see so much aggression in television and video that they would rather see something less serious. But his fire acts, they are still popular.

The most important thing for him is to be able to put his craft over and be funny at the same time.

He trains several hours a day, which means even going shopping and taking his dog out while riding his one-wheeled cycle. He keeps himself fit with hard physical exercise.

He says he knows he is at the age where people are prone to heart attacks, so he pushes himself to the limit. But otherwise, he feels his age is no handicap.

Rolf Bendig, alias Fakir Alyn, is still restless: "I'm still looking." It could well be that he will find something totally different to do.

Only one thing is certain: "I want to be able to make an terrific living at it so I'll have a good income in old age." So he really does count himself as mere mortal, after all.

Peter Pflaum
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger,
Cologne, 26 November 1988)

Continued from page 11

ship of French actress Isabelle Huppert, selected the prize-winners.

As British actor Ben Kingsley said, it was not much of a pleasure sitting for 12 to 14 hours a day watching films for a whole week long.

Then the jury members had their own ideas in the choice of prize-winners. Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis nominated film music which was not included in the jury's list.

The prize, according to the appeal made by European directors, "has not been created against anything but for something," for strengthening the European film industry in the East and the West in equal measure.

"Politicians must provide the location and hope that people use it to the full," said Volker Hessemer, Berlin's Senator for the Arts in an interview he had given before the prize-giving.

Despite the considerable costs the Berlin Senate hopes that the prize award ceremony will remain in Berlin. It is not yet

certain whether the venue will change from "European Culture City" to "European Culture City," or remain in one place. It is also still not certain whether the prize will become an established institution, which is what many film industry people would like.

The prize, according to the appeal made by European directors, "has not been created against anything but for something," for strengthening the European film industry in the East and the West in equal measure.

Even if the Felix is not to be an "Anti-Oscar," the award was a "dialogue with the Oscar," as Harry Gilmore put it, the American representative to Berlin.

Marijane Heuwagen
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich,
28 November 1988)

■ HORIZONS

Planned law aimed at helping unmarried fathers gain access to children

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Klaus Kersting has not been allowed to see his daughter for two years. He lived with the girl's mother for three years before they broke up.

For a year, he saw his daughter every Sunday for a few hours. Then the mother stopped him. She got a court order back her.

Her reasons for the change of mind seem reasonable: the daughter became upset on seeing the father and afterwards needed comforting.

The judge didn't look into the question of why the girl became upset. Nor did any psychologist. Nor any social worker.

Did the daughter become upset because she was unable to reconcile the man himself with the ugly picture that mother drew of him? Or was it perhaps because she had to say goodbye each time?

Sometimes he wonders if it would not be better if he refrained from showing his children his affection for them, but then he imagines that one day both children could be standing at his door to visit him.

The new law, with which fathers of illegitimate children have to come to terms, affects worst those fathers, of all people, who are a far cry from the image of the authoritarian patriarch.

An official from the Bundestag administration in Bonn said: "I took a year off from work to look after our baby daughter, so that her mother could do her exams." He misses the close contacts he had with his child. For the past year he has been forbidden all contact with her.

He declined to take up visiting rights which allowed him two hours three times a month with his daughter, when his former companion spoke of him before the guardianship court as "just a semen donor."

He has never received a letter of thanks or even a telephone call for the presents he has sent his children at

Christmas and for their birthdays. Sometimes he has the suspicion that the children never get the parcels he sends to them.

Sometimes he wonders if it would not be better if he refrained from showing his children his affection for them, but then he imagines that one day both children could be standing at his door to visit him.

The Church and feminists provide additional ammunition against the modest demands of fathers of families where no wedding ceremony has taken place.

One pastor asked a man why he had not married. The despairing man had for years played the role of father of the family and had brought up his two children "just like in an ordinary family."

The pastor could not understand his answer: "Neither of us wanted to marry."

Feminists insist on women's rights as if they were defending the last bastion in the battle of the sexes.

A woman recently placed an advertisement in a Berlin newspaper: "I want to get visiting rights withdrawn from the father of my children. Who knows any tips or tricks to achieve this?"

The question reflects what has driven fathers to the barricades after years of silence.

**Marianne Quirin
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger,
Cologne, 4 November 1988)**

the school gate with her class friends. He did not get out of the car, but he felt as if he were a sinner caught out when his daughter asked him if he was waiting for someone.

The stories which banned fathers tell do not fit in very well with what women have to say after a broken relationship.

The men have hurt pride, hurt vanity. They attempt to get involved even after the breakup, claim ownership over everything, play the strong-man and pretended to feelings they do not have; the list of complaints against the alleged bad fathers is endless.

The Church and feminists provide additional ammunition against the modest demands of fathers of families where no wedding ceremony has taken place.

One pastor asked a man why he had not married. The despairing man had for years played the role of father of the family and had brought up his two children "just like in an ordinary family."

The pastor could not understand his answer: "Neither of us wanted to marry."

Feminists insist on women's rights as if they were defending the last bastion in the battle of the sexes.

A woman recently placed an advertisement in a Berlin newspaper: "I want to get visiting rights withdrawn from the father of my children. Who knows any tips or tricks to achieve this?"

The question reflects what has driven fathers to the barricades after years of silence.

**Marianne Quirin
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger,
Cologne, 4 November 1988)**

Custody rulings foiled by child abductions

that there is a lack of international agreement. There is, it is true, the 1980 Hague agreement on the aspects of civil law concerning international abductions of children, and a European Community agreement on the recognition and implementation of custody orders for children.

No Islamic country, however, has signed these agreements and, according to Doris Bounaira, these are just the countries which present the greatest problems.

Failing agreements "Child Protection International" relies on prevention. "We try," Doris Bounaira said, "to nip the situation in the bud. One has to take every sign of what the father is planning seriously."

In problem cases the association recommends allowing a third party to keep the situation under control or to withdraw visiting privileges completely.

In many cases Doris Bounaira uses a method that has been applied successfully in France; during or after a divorce the non-German partner in the marriage agrees to give up all rights of custody in a private contract.

This agreement must be witnessed in all its legal details by the person's embassy or a court in the country of the non-German member of the marriage.

In cases of emergency there are then good legal grounds, even in Iran, to sue for recognition of a custody order in the man's own country; this puts a stop to possible "abductions."

Advice of this sort has come too late for Karine Bagheri-Gamerschlag. Her divorce has come through and she was given custody of the children.

Siamak Bagheri has started divorce proceedings in Iran and put in his claim for custody of the children.

Little Sara is now attending a school in Teheran. She wrote secretly to her mother: "I cry a lot. Whatever happens you must come and bring us back."

**Hanne Eckart
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt,
Hamburg, 27 November 1988)**